



**Return to Learn**  
***Frequently Asked Questions***  
***(updated Friday, December 18, 2020)***

***Return to Learn Update (Revisions for Second Semester)***

***LPS released a message to staff and families following the Tuesday evening, December 15, 2020, Board of Education meeting. This detailed message can be accessed here. We encourage families to remain engaged in the coming weeks, as this situation continues to evolve.***

At the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, December 15, 2020, the Board formally approved the proposed *Return to Learn Plan* revisions for the second semester, which begins Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The *2020-2021 Return to Learn* document has been updated, and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

When students and staff return for the start of second semester, the plan moving forward will look very similar to the first semester of the school year, with a few modifications. Below, you will find the important updates to the plan to take note of:

- Elementary level (grades PreK-5) students will continue to be provided in-person learning opportunities Monday-Friday. One change for elementary in-person and virtual learners during the second semester is that elementary schools will be on a two-hour early release schedule every Wednesday during the second semester. This will provide needed time for our elementary teaching teams to collaborate around learning and spend time with professional development. All elementary schools will be providing families with additional information later today regarding after-school care opportunities for in-person learners in need of this service on Wednesdays.
- Secondary level (grades 6-12) students will continue with the current flexible learning model that has been in place this semester. Following recent feedback, there will be a focus on both increased learning on virtual learning days for hybrid students and an increase in engagement and learning on virtual Wednesdays, as well.
- Liberty Virtual School will continue in its current format for the second semester. Any families interested in participating in this 100% virtual learning opportunity are encouraged to visit their website, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

LPS is continuing the process of exploring scenarios in which we

can provide additional in-person learning opportunities for our secondary students during the second semester. This work will resume as staff and students return for the start of second semester in January. Please know that all decisions continue to be made while in close communication with the Clay County Public Health Center and the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department, with the health and safety of students and staff as our top priority. We are also committed to providing staff and families with regular updates, as necessary.

**Q & A Following December 16, 2020 Update**

***Will the District consider providing additional in-person learning opportunities for secondary students?***

LPS is continuing the process of exploring scenarios in which we can provide additional in-person learning opportunities for our secondary students during the second semester. This work will resume as staff and students return for the start of second semester in January. Please know that all decisions continue to be made while in close communication with the Clay County Public Health Center and the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department, with the health and safety of students and staff as our top priority. We are also committed to providing staff and families with regular updates, as necessary.

***Why is there a need for this 2-hour early release on Wednesday’s at the elementary level?***

Our teachers at the elementary level have had very limited time to plan and collaborate due to some of the constraints with Covid and the need to supervise students throughout the day. This requires a lot of extra time to plan for different lessons and activities. This time will allow them to prepare lessons and focus on curriculum development for their students. In addition, many of our teachers are also teaching both in-person and virtually to students that are out on quarantine. We continue to thank our families for their patience and flexibility as we navigate through this pandemic.

***As part of the 2-hour early release on Wednesday’s at the elementary level, will there be opportunities for my child to be supervised at school during this time?***

Yes. For those families in need of continued care for their student during these 2 hours, the District will provide in-school care for these students, at no cost to families. In order to limit the number of students in this program, please strongly consider picking up your student at the scheduled early release time. This in-school care option is intended for families who need the District’s assistance in providing supervision to students who would otherwise be left home alone.

**Quarantine Questions/Guidance**

***I have seen various media reports and rumors regarding quarantine guidance. Has***

Following the most recent information shared by the Clay County Public Health Center, LPS released the following message to staff and families that addresses this topic:

<p><b><i>LPS changed their quarantine procedures?</i></b></p>	<p>Earlier this week, the Clay County Public Health Center released an update as it pertains to the topic of <i>Quarantine Guidance</i>. Below, is a brief summary of the information released by the CCPHC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Per CDC guidance, quarantining for the full 14 days is the preferred option. Based on the December 2, 2020, CDC update, as a close contact, you may end your quarantine after 10 days IF you have NO symptoms, but you must continue to wear your mask and monitor for symptoms for the full 14-day time period. If at any time during that 14-day timeframe, you develop symptoms of COVID-19, please isolate and get tested.</i></li> <li>• <i>We encourage anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 to stay home. Individuals who are asymptomatic should wait at least 7 days after exposure to get tested. As always, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested, if possible.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Liberty Public Schools currently plans to continue with our <a href="#">Covid-19 Exposure and Symptom Protocols</a> that have been in place this semester, which include a full 14-day quarantine for an exposed individual (student or staff member).</b> These protocols are always subject to change and will continue to be reviewed in the coming days and weeks leading up to the start of the second semester. We will provide staff and families with updates as they become available.</p>
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***LPS Testing Site Information***

<p><b><i>Is it true that LPS now offers a COVID-19 Rapid Response Testing Site for students and staff?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes. Below is additional information that was recently shared with staff and families:</p> <p>We are now offering rapid Covid-19 testing at our testing facility, located at 300 Blue Jay Drive, which is just south of the Liberty High School Activities Complex. This testing opportunity is being offered for LPS staff and students, and is available once authorized, and by appointment only. Hours of operation for the testing site are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–3 p.m. Additional information to know regarding the testing site and procedures can be accessed at the webpage, which can be accessed by <a href="#">clicking here</a>.</p>
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***Communication Protocols***

<p><b><i>How will the district communicate when there is a positive COVID-19 case in a school or facility?</i></b></p>	<p>As we remain in the midst of a pandemic, we understand that the possibility of positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools exists. Please know that we are committed to sharing as much information with you as possible, while still following legal and ethical privacy laws. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case in</p>
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	<p>one of our schools, the following communication will take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The individual who tests positive will be immediately contacted by the Clay County Public Health Center.</li> <li>● The contact tracing process will immediately begin, and any individual(s) determined to be close contacts of the infected individual will be contacted.</li> <li>● All staff from the building will receive written notification.</li> <li>● All parents/guardians of students within the same school building will receive written notification that a positive case exists.</li> <li>● In addition, an LPS COVID-19 Dashboard is available and is updated each Wednesday during the school year. The dashboard can be accessed by <a href="#">clicking here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Please know that there is always the possibility that a situation may require additional building and district-wide communication to our staff and families. We would like to thank our entire LPS community for your continued patience, flexibility, and grace as we navigate this extremely challenging time.</p>
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***Frequently Asked Questions (October 2020)***

<p><b><i>Are there opportunities for staff, parents, and students to submit feedback on their LPS experience this semester</i></b></p>	<p>Yes. Surveys were distributed to LPS staff, parents, and students the week of October 5, 2020. The surveys provided the District with valuable feedback as we make plans for the coming weeks and months. Below you will find survey results from the different stakeholder groups:  <a href="#">Parent Survey Results</a>  <a href="#">Student Survey Results</a>  <a href="#">Teacher Survey Results</a></p>
<p><b><i>If students choose to change learning modes, when can this be completed and how?</i></b></p>	<p>Elementary students can change learning modes (face-to-face learning to virtual or virtual to face-to-face) at the conclusion of first quarter, which is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. This can be done by contacting your child’s school. As was shared in July 2020, changing learning modes for secondary students can be made at the conclusion of first semester (winter vacation).</p>
<p><b><i>When does the District plan to begin allowing more face-to-face learning opportunities for secondary students?</i></b></p>	<p>LPS remains in close contact with local health officials and monitors Covid-19 in our community. We are committed to providing additional face-to-face learning opportunities for all of our learners, but will only do so with the safety and health of our students and staff as our top priority. LPS will provide regular updates as we continue through the fall.</p>
<p><b><i>When will LPS announce plans for possible additional face-to-face learning</i></b></p>	<p>Our Return to Learn team is currently working on different options as it relates to additional face-to-face learning opportunities for our secondary students during the second</p>

<p><b>opportunities for secondary students in the second semester?</b></p>	<p>semester (January 2021). LPS hopes to be able to provide these families with an update in early - mid December 2020. Families are encouraged to remain engaged with our various communication channels in the coming weeks.</p>
<p><b>Q &amp; A's Following August 4, 2020 Update</b></p>	
<p><b>Why was the decision made to move the 2020-2021 start date to Tuesday, September 8, 2020?</b></p>	<p>Local health officials, including the Clay County Public Health Center and Kansas City, Missouri Health Department, have recommended school districts that reside in Clay County and/or Kansas City, Missouri delay the school start date for districts until after the Labor Day holiday.</p>
<p><b>Will this later start date push the last day of school back to June 2021?</b></p>	<p>No. The last day of school for LPS will remain Friday, May 28, 2020. District administration will update the Board of Education in the coming weeks to determine if any minor changes would need to be considered for the 2020-2021 academic calendar.</p>
<p><b>Why did LPS decide to transition to a Flexible Learning Schedule for students in grades 6-12 and not for students PreK-5?</b></p>	<p>Guidance from the Clay County Public Health Center states that for students in grades 6-12, on-campus learning at 100% capacity is discouraged and not recommended at this time. Elementary students are recommended to return to in-person learning for the scheduled start of the school year. Factors for why the difference in recommendation for elementary/secondary include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Higher transmission rates among secondary-aged students, as compared to younger students.</li> <li>2) Larger volume of students at the secondary sites as compared to elementary sites.</li> <li>3) Increased opportunities for larger mass gatherings (i.e.: passing periods, etc.) at the secondary level.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Why can't those students who chose the 100% virtual option start their school year on the originally scheduled start date of Tuesday, August 25, 2020?</b></p>	<p>This decision was made in an effort to provide continuity with our 2020-2021 academic calendar for both students and staff. Knowing the likelihood of students, and potentially staff, transitioning from one learning platform to the other in the midst of the school year, it is in the best interest of the district to have a specific start date for all students, regardless of the learning platform.</p>

<p><b>How will LPS be able to achieve health officials' recommendations (social distancing, etc.) for elementary schools who will still have a large student population registered for face-to-face learning this fall?</b></p>	<p>Work on building-specific plans involving building/classroom capacity limits, etc. began as soon as the Student Census data was received. Individual buildings have shared information with families in recent weeks leading up to the official start of school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.</p>
<p><b>For secondary students who chose the face-to-face option in the Student Census, will they have to re-enroll for the updated Flexible Learning Plan?</b></p>	<p>No. All students grades 6-12 will be automatically enrolled into the Flexible Learning Plan. Additional details will be shared from the building level in the coming weeks that includes class schedules, etc.</p>
<p><b>Will secondary students who are involved in after-school activities be able to participate on days they are learning from home?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Secondary students involved in after-school activities will be able to participate face-to-face each day of the week. Students will need their own transportation to activities on days in which they are participating in virtual learning from home.</p>
<p><b>How does this update affect EPiC Elementary's academic calendar?</b></p>	<p>EPiC Elementary's official start date is now <b>Wednesday, September 2, 2020</b>. This is effective for students participating in virtual or face-to-face learning platforms.</p>
<p><b>Does the delayed start date affect when teachers will report to schools?</b></p>	<p>No. Teachers will report to their schools to begin their 2020-2021 contract as scheduled on Monday, August 17, 2020. Since the last day of school date will remain the same, no additional contract days for teachers will be needed.</p>
<p><b>Will elementary and secondary schools have Back-to-School Nights/Orientations prior to the start of school?</b></p>	<p>We plan to offer these events in virtual format this fall. More details will be shared soon from your child's home school.</p>
<p><b>If this update would cause our family to change our mind with how our child(ren) would receive instruction (face-to-face instruction/virtual instruction), can we make a change?</b></p>	<p>Yes. The deadline for families to make a change from their original selection on last month's <i>Student Census</i> has been extended to <b>Monday, August 31, 2020</b>.</p>
<p><b>Is it possible that the LPS Return to Learn plan would need to be adjusted again prior to the start of the school year?</b></p>	<p>LPS will remain in close contact with local health officials and will be committed to providing any updates to families in a timely manner. There is always the possibility that if COVID-19 cases increase in our area, we would need to transition to 100% virtual learning.</p>

<p><b>Does the Flexible Learning Plan announcement mean that ALL students who chose the face-to-face learning option will now participate in the Flexible Learning Plan?</b></p>	<p>Yes. All secondary students will participate in the Flexible Learning Plan to begin the 2020-2021 school year. We will use this model until provided a recommendation for larger occupancies at our secondary sites. Additional information, such as school schedules, etc., will be communicated to families in the coming weeks.</p>
<p><b>Why wasn't the Flexible Learning Plan option (for students grades 6-12) available for students <u>prior to the Student Census released in July?</u></b></p>	<p>As has been communicated throughout the pandemic, this situation continues to be extremely fluid. In the days following completion of our Student Census, we received updated recommendations from the Clay County Public Health Center and Kansas City, Missouri Health Department that <u>discourages 100% capacity at our secondary campuses when the school year resumes this fall</u>. Recommendations also encourage hybrid and virtual attendance for students grades 6-12. This updated plan for secondary students allows LPS to align with the most recent recommendations provided by the Clay County Public Health Center.</p>

**Virtual Learning Questions**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>Will virtual learning include live teaching or videos?</b></p>	<p>Learning at home will include both live instruction and recorded videos. A daily schedule will include following a revised schedule that will be similar to a normal school schedule. There will be a set schedule each day with times that a student will connect with each teacher. These connections might be a class discussion that lasts 30 minutes or may be a 15-minute lesson, then the student works on their own. Or they might connect with a student team online. Teachers can create short videos that students can use to remind them of concepts or techniques while they work on their own.</p> <p>Following the August 4, 2020, Board of Education study session, the Return to Learn Plan was announced, indicating secondary schools (grades 6-12) will begin the 2020-2021 school year with the <a href="#">Flexible Learning Plan</a> schedule.</p> <p>One of the many questions posed was if a student chose the virtual option, would that student still be allowed to participate in band, choir, orchestra, debate, competitive theater, or theatre face-to-face? The answer is yes, we will accommodate students who have chosen the virtual option for regular classes and allow them to participate in fine arts co-curricular courses during the school day. In developing the schedules for fine arts students, it</p>

	<p>is imperative we are aware if your child is going to participate in fine arts courses virtually, or if you chose the virtual option for regular classes but want the face-to-face option for fine arts courses only.</p> <p>Please fill out <a href="#">this document</a> no later than August 10. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Aaron Money at <a href="mailto:aaron.money@lps53.org">aaron.money@lps53.org</a> or 816-736-5660.</p>
<p><b><i>Everyone understands in-person/face-to-face learning, but virtual may need more explanation for families to feel comfortable making that selection. Can you provide more clarity?</i></b></p>	<p>There will be a significant difference in the virtual school experience this coming school year from the “emergency learning” due to COVID-19 this past spring. Liberty Virtual School will be taught by virtual school only LPS teachers dedicated and professionally developed to teach school online. There will be a designated virtual school schedule where students will "attend" school throughout the school day. Learning content has been designed for online learning, and teachers will focus on using student evidence (projects and assignments showing teachers what they have learned) to measure learning. Virtual learning will have more structure than it did in the spring. Students will have times they have to get online to work with teachers and other students. This may vary from day-to-day, but virtual learners may have designated times where they are required to be online for instruction. This model has been hugely successful in other online models we have researched and are using to design our own programs.</p> <p>Students who opt for virtual learning opportunities will have multiple ways to connect with their teachers. We have learning management systems and communication tools (Canvas or Google Classroom at the secondary level and SeeSaw at the elementary level) and virtual meeting options like Zoom and Google Hangouts, in addition to more traditional methods, such as email and phones, that students can use to connect with their virtual teachers. Our virtual classes will be taught by LPS virtual teachers, who may or may not be physically working from the school at any given time. Our goal is to continue building relationships with students in the virtual environment just as we would in the traditional classroom. We are committed to providing all LPS students with an authentic learning experience, whether they are learning virtually or in the school building.</p> <p>For a comparison of virtual learning, discussed above, and the secondary (grades 6-12) face-to-face <a href="#">Flexible Learning Schedule</a>, please visit the <a href="#">#LPSReturnsToLearn</a> page on the LPS website.</p>
<p><b><i>If my child plans to do virtual instruction but also wants to participate in the band, can this happen?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes, we will accommodate students who have chosen the virtual option for regular classes and allow them to participate in fine arts co-curricular courses during the school day. In developing</p>



	<p>the schedules for fine arts students, it is imperative we understand if your child is going to participate in fine arts courses virtually, or if you chose the virtual option for regular classes but want the face-to-face option for fine arts courses only.</p> <p>Please fill out <a href="#">this document</a> no later than August 10. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact <a href="#">Aaron Money</a> at 736-5660.</p>
<p><b><i>Where will virtual teachers be physically located while learning is taking place?</i></b></p>	<p>Virtual teachers will have a choice from where to teach. They will have to manage their work environment regardless of location. It is NOT like the spring - this is a professional teaching position that requires teachers to teach class on a school schedule.</p>
<p><b><i>How will the district support parents who select virtual learning for their child(ren)?</i></b></p>	<p>The district has created a <a href="#">Parent Support Guide</a> to offer additional support to parents around topics that are most common for virtual learning. The guide addresses topics such as navigating day-to-day learning, student engagement, and access to resources.</p>
<p><b><i>If students are taking classes that need to be taught both virtually and face-to-face, how will that work for classes like Choir, Band, Speech, what about PEAK classes?</i></b></p>	<p>Fine Arts classes will be handled similarly to regular classes if a student moves from face-to-face learning to virtual for a short term. The classes will meet with the specials/elective teachers online via Zoom, Canvas, or Google Hangout.</p> <p>For elementary PEAK, we are considering two options at this time to minimize moving students between schools: 1) Students can join PEAK classes once a week virtually from their home school (face-to-face) or home (virtual). Teachers can teach online from their classrooms (AD &amp; RV), and 2) PEAK teachers can travel to elementary buildings to provide services.</p>
<p><b><i>My child will be doing virtual school for at least the beginning of the school year. She is in Kindergarten and we pre-ordered the school supply pack through the PTA to be delivered to the school. Is there a way to get the supplies for home use or will the school keep them with her name? Just want to ensure somehow they will be hers since we have already paid.</i></b></p>	<p>You will be able to go to your school and pick up the supplies you ordered. Principals will let families know when the supplies arrive and how they want families to pick them up. I encourage you to pick them up rather than leave them at school even if you might switch back to attending the school.</p>
<p><b><i>Can you clarify if the same elementary teacher is responsible for in-person</i></b></p>	<p>We will have dedicated virtual teachers for students who choose the virtual option. If a student who chose the face-to-face option would become ill and need to miss a few weeks, they would</p>

<b><i>instruction will also be providing the online instruction for long-term virtual learning? Or will each delivery method have a dedicated teacher?</i></b>	remain with their home school, and then return to their classroom when healthy.
<b><i>Will there be an adjusted school supply list for those students who will be choosing the virtual learning path?</i></b>	Our building leaders have been asked to review supply lists to meet our needs for this year. We are not planning to have a separate list for virtual learners. If families want to get a jump on buying supplies, we recommend getting the basics to get started. This would include paper, pencils, folders to organize and a basic notebook to keep it all together.

***Face-to-Face Learning/Policies & Procedures***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>How will student drop-off and pick-up look for the different schools? With social distancing guidelines in place, how will students be kept apart during these times along with passing periods, etc.?</i></b>	<p>Each building leadership team has reviewed their procedures for pick up and drop off each day. They will use staff to supervise student distancing. They will also use various spaces and entrances, and a staggered schedule so students can be spread out while they are waiting. These details have now been shared with families.</p> <p>Our goal is to ensure our students are safe in all areas of our schools through required face masks and safe distancing. We will teach our students the procedures they need to follow when they are waiting to be picked up and the teachers and staff will be there for reminders and support.</p>
<b><i>What process will the district follow to identify and communicate to families if students or staff are identified positive with COVID?</i></b>	The district will closely follow guidance (which will likely continue to evolve) from Clay County Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control as we identify and notify families and staff of any COVID-19 related issue. We, of course, will carefully follow HIPAA and FERPA requirements. If an individual is required (per this guidance) to take any action (seek testing, self-quarantine or self-monitor for symptoms), they will be promptly notified by LPS. Finally, a detailed communication will be shared with all LPS families prior to the start of the school year that will provide communication protocols.
<b><i>Is there a limit on class size or how will spacing be determined in schools?</i></b>	Classroom spacing will be largely driven by spacing guidance provided by Clay County Public Health. It will also be driven by the size of the classroom, the type of furniture used in the space and the ability to minimize non-essential furniture and equipment in the room.

<p><b>How will the school district manage the social distancing expectations set forth by the CDC and Clay County Guidelines?</b></p>	<p>The district will use signage (wall and floor) to help guide behavior. Furniture layout will also help control for distancing. We will rely on staff to assist in directing or redirecting when situations arise in which distancing is a concern.</p>
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**Student/Staff Health & Safety Questions**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>What guidelines will be provided about wearing masks for students and staff? Will masks be supplied?</b></p>	<p>All students, staff, visitors, and patrons are required to wear an approved facial covering while inside LPS buildings. Masks must be worn at all times except when eating, drinking, or playing outside during recess and during physical education. Additionally, students may be able to lower their mask (with permission only) when a clear 6+ foot social distance can be maintained for an extended period of time.</p> <p>The CDC has identified medical conditions for which wearing a mask may not be advisable. If you have questions regarding this please consult your physician. Unless a student is under the age of 5, a signed physician's order from a Medical Doctor (MD or DO only) will be required to be granted an exemption to the mask policy. The Health Services Department may grant a waiver to this requirement without a signed physician's order for any previously documented physical respiratory condition (e.g., severe asthma) included in the <a href="#">CDC exemption guidance</a>.</p>
<p><b>Are face shields an appropriate form of protection?</b></p>	<p>According to the latest update provided to our health services team: Parents may seek alternate forms of protection such as a face shield for only those students who are unable to wear a mask due to exempted conditions but may be able to wear a face shield properly. Face shields are not an acceptable substitute for a mask, but it does offer a degree of protection for those who are exempted from wearing a mask. Note: Only students with exempted conditions are permitted to wear alternate forms of protection. All other students K-8 need to wear a mask. As you have likely heard us say in recent weeks and throughout this pandemic, this is an extremely fluid event. Included in this fluidity would be recommendations/mandates passed along from our health officials. We are committed to remaining in close contact with them and will make any necessary adjustments per their guidance.</p>
<p><b>I'm wondering if they have a plan in place of once we hit "x,y,z" we will all go virtual? Like are we looking at a</b></p>	<p>The district will continue to work with Clay County and KCMO Health to determine the ability for us to offer face-to-face learning as an option for our students. If additional parameters are required for social distancing or mass gatherings, we will</p>

<p><b>number of cases? Government mandates?</b></p>	<p>adhere to them keeping our physical attendance in place as long as this is an option for us.</p>
<p><b>I would like to know what they are providing teachers for PPE for the year. And if there is anything we should as parents be prepared to provide outside of the supply list relating to that. I keep seeing posts from other districts across the nation that it's clearly not enough but I've heard LPS is "well prepared" but would like to know more.</b></p>	<p>Our district has a wide supply of PPE for staff. Each staff member has been given two masks. In addition, masks will be given to buildings for anyone who forgets one (students, parents, staff). We have also purchased face shields, sneeze guards, desks to separate students, desk dividers, sanitizer, disinfectant, etc. Each teacher will be getting a package of cleaning supplies for their classroom. Parents should only need to supply a mask for their student and regular school supplies.</p>
<p><b>Are students and staff going to be allowed to wear gaiter masks? I see lots of kids wearing them and I'd like for the schools to specifically state that these won't be allowed as they've shown to not only not work but to perhaps be worse than no mask at all.</b></p>	<p>Recent studies have shown compelling arguments regarding masks; however, it has also been recognized that more research is needed to be done to fully determine the construction of masks. The CDC has not updated their guidelines for mask construction and includes using a bandana to make a mask (which was also cited as inferior in a small Duke study). We look forward to more research and updated guidance from the CDC pertaining to specific mask construction; particularly addressing masks that are made with other non-cotton materials or various layers. As of now, the expectation is that anyone in the building is to wear a cloth mask.</p>
<p><b>How will teachers handle students who are not able to wear a mask or who wear them incorrectly?</b></p>	<p>We will ask our Health Services Department to assist in identifying students who are unable to wear a mask for health reasons. This will be communicated to staff. If we have students who are having difficulties with following the expectations for masks, staff will be asked to work gracefully with the student and family to ensure the safety of everyone in the school. In addition, students identified as not being able to wear a mask may also be able to wear a protective shield.</p>
<p><b>I have multiple kids with asthma and allergies. How will these symptoms be differentiated from Covid symptoms?</b></p>	<p>According to our health services team, it can be difficult even for healthcare professionals to differentiate between usual symptoms of Allergies, Asthma, and that of COVID-19. Our professional school nurses will be using their professional nursing judgement when assessing each student. Our school nurses will also be using various assessment tools to try to determine the source of their symptoms as best as they can. One of the assessment tools the school nurses will be using can be found here:  <a href="https://428552-1344816-raikfcquaxqncofqfm.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Asthma-Care-School-Post-Outbreak.pdf">https://428552-1344816-raikfcquaxqncofqfm.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Asthma-Care-School-Post-Outbreak.pdf</a> The nurse will be looking for new symptoms which could point to COVID-19 rather than usual symptoms a student</p>

may present with as part of their chronic health concern. A referral to the student's physician is a strong possibility if the source of symptoms cannot be determined.

### ***Elementary Return to Learn Questions***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>My 1st grader has an IEP under Autism. I'm wondering how his special ed services would be accommodated if I were to select the virtual school option? Or would there be a way where he could go into school for his special ed services and complete the assignments he can do at home through the virtual school? Are there any hybrid options like this being considered for other IEP students?</i></b>	For specific details regarding your child's needs, I recommend that you contact your school's principal directly. We are committed to ensuring that students with IEP's are supported with their goals and accommodations both at school and when they are learning from home. This will look different for each child, but special education teachers will work with each family to make it happen. A blended schedule of both might be possible. At this time high school students are able to do a hybrid schedule because they have had these types of classes in previous years. The elementary and middle levels are investigating the possibility.
<b><i>Will students have recess at school and how will that look?</i></b>	Yes, students will still have recess, as exercise and movement during the days is extremely important. We are working on schedules to have smaller groups outside at a time and time for custodians to sanitize in between groups as needed. We will also limit the equipment (balls, etc.) that each group can touch. It may just be organized by grade level so it isn't touched by numerous students every day.

### ***High School/Secondary Return to Learn Questions***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>Will all high school classes and electives be able to be taught virtually? If my son is signed up for chemistry this year, is that something that can be done virtually? What about Chinese? What if more people sign up for face to face and not as many sign up for virtual, will the virtual class still be available? Is he going</i></b>	We are committed to providing students comparable instructional experiences in both the virtual and in-person learning environments. While every effort will be made to meet the course requests students submitted last spring, we may need to adjust student schedules if enrollment numbers shift significantly with the addition of the virtual school option. Rest assured that we have virtual options in nearly every content area, though some course offerings may need to be adjusted based on student enrollment numbers. As a fairly popular science course, it is highly likely we will have a virtual chemistry experience available for students. If it is feasible to offer Chinese based on enrollment requests, again we will endeavor to make this option a possibility for students who choose virtual instruction.

<p><b><i>to have a different Chinese teacher?</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>What is the SPECIFIC PLAN for how the high schools will achieve social distancing during passing periods, arrival, and dismissal, given that there will be approximately 1100 kids in the hallways at these times? Especially given the crowds during registration (which were nothing compared to a passing period), many are concerned at how this is even possible. Please provide specifics.</i></b></p>	<p>The high school teams have been working on re-entry this summer. They will have more supervised exterior doors open in the morning to allow students to enter through multiple points. In addition, we are looking at staggering dismissal time by floor. During the day, students will be spread out across the building, which will help with numbers. However, students will be required to stay to the right as they go through the halls. It will look different at each high school due to the layout of the building. Every plan will be reviewed by our Operations Team, District Security and Director of Health Services to ensure it allows for social distancing. In addition, we will have teachers and administrators in the hallways to provide guidance to students.</p>
<p><b><i>Are attendance guidelines for things like the A+ and academic letters being revised?</i></b></p>	<p>We recognize the importance that has been given to attendance in the past. We are working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on how attendance will be determined this coming school year. Students who have COVID-related absences will not be penalized and it will not count against them for A+ and/or academic letters.</p>
<p><b><i>Do you have to attend in-person school in order to be eligible for middle/high school sports?</i></b></p>	<p>No. Students will be able to participate in activities, regardless of learning platforms. More information will be available for families for your building in the next few weeks.</p>
<p><b><i>My child is enrolled in 5 AP courses and French V. Will these be options for the blended courses? For virtual? Will they be a part of the LAUNCH curriculum?</i></b></p>	<p>Ideally, we will be able to offer Advanced Placement courses and French V in the virtual environment. However, the feasibility of doing so is somewhat dependent on student course requests in the virtual school. We do have some options for AP and dual credit available via LAUNCH if there is not sufficient student interest to warrant allocation of a staff member to offer a specific course. As for blended options, high school administrators are working with teacher teams to identify specific junior/senior level courses that would be applicable for the blended approach. In this format, students would attend class face-to-face on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and then engage in online lessons on Tuesday and Thursday. Students with their own transportation would be permitted to leave campus for the online lessons on Tuesday and Thursday. That list of classes will be coming soon and would be a part of the face to face option. While we hope to have a definitive commitment regarding the preferred learning format for each family by the close of the student census survey, we realize this is a fluid situation as new information comes to light. If a change needs to be made in a student's placement (either virtual or face-to-face) after the</p>

	student census survey closes, please contact the student's administrator and counselor for additional direction.
<b><i>I have an incoming 6th grader at SVMS and will be doing virtual learning. We still have the laptop from our daughter's elementary school (Lewis and Clark). Will she utilize this same laptop for her work at SVMS?</i></b>	At some point we will have students turn in their laptops and replace them with an iPad. This fall, all students K-8th will have iPads rather than the chromebooks. I am working with middle school principals to set up these dates. Each principal will communicate this process to their families.
<b><i>Can you tell me what middle school electives will be options for virtual school?</i></b>	While we anticipate offering some of the same courses that are currently available, we understand that the results of the census survey may cause us to have to limit offerings to accommodate student needs. These decisions will be made after evaluating the student census survey results to provide the most accurate set of offerings for each grade level, depending upon the initial requests of the virtual students themselves.
<b><i>What does MOCAP mean for high school?</i></b>	MOCAP is a State provided option for students who want to take virtual classes. This is an option for districts who do not offer virtual classes for their students or classes that are not offered by the district. In Liberty, we offer Liberty Virtual and Launch classes. Starting this Fall, we will offer Liberty Virtual School as well. If you have any other questions, please contact the Innovation & Learning Department at 816-736-5320.

### ***General Return to Learn Questions***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>As a parent with students in different schools I feel it's difficult to follow multiple learning platforms. Is it possible to have one consistent learning platform district wide?</i></b>	At this time, learning platforms are aligned at the elementary and secondary levels. The elementary students and staff will use Seesaw and Google classroom. Secondary schools will use the Canvas learning management system. This is new for middle school next year, and the third year for high school. Training will be offered to middle level teachers to support their launch of this resource.
<b><i>How do I know what the choices look like for returning to school next year?</i></b>	We have designed two choices for parents to select from for their child(ren) to return to school in 2020-2021. Please review the <a href="#">Return to Learn Plan 2020-2021</a> to compare the two options.
<b><i>Can one child in a family do online learning and another child in the same family do face-to-face learning?</i></b>	Yes. The family can decide child by child what option works best.

<b><i>It sounds like every family has to choose either virtual or face to face, is there a third option of blending the two for students who want that?</i></b>	We currently have a blended option available for students at the high school level. We are exploring this option for K-8, but as of now it is fully face to face or virtual.
<b><i>Is bus transportation offered as this will impact my decision as to whether I need Kid's Zone in the fall. Do you have any insight into when those decisions will be made?</i></b>	Yes, transportation will be available and we are requiring that all students (K-12) opt-in to assist us with our route planning. If you have not yet done so, please go to the link below. This assumes that you currently reside more than 1 mile from your school, which is our current standard for when transportation can be provided to students. <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ofUOyXXSH3tv7UIZU-FSSTuG_AjfNG9CDMds-upoOFg/viewform?edit_requested=true">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ofUOyXXSH3tv7UIZU-FSSTuG_AjfNG9CDMds-upoOFg/viewform?edit_requested=true</a>

**Technology Questions**

<b><i>I have heard that there are changes to the types of devices for students this year. Will my high school junior still have access to a Macbook or will that change? We are planning a virtual fall and what we have heard concerns us.</i></b>	LPS will be providing updated devices for students for the 2020-2021 school year. We are working on processes for returning the old devices and checking out the new devices and will communicate that information in the near future. High school students will be utilizing the newer version of the MacBook Air.
<b><i>My child still needs to turn in their LPS issued electronic device, and another child is going from elementary to middle school and will be getting a different device.</i></b>	In the coming weeks we will have students turn in their laptops/devices and replace them with a different device. This fall, all students K-8th will have Ipads rather than the chromebooks. Dates for distribution will be announced soon. Each principal will communicate this process to their families, likely in early August.
<b><i>If my family chooses the virtual option and doesn't have internet available from home, will this service be provided?</i></b>	Yes. LPS technology will provide families with "hotspots" that will allow for internet connectivity. If you need this service to be provided, you can simply contact your child's school or call our LPS HelpDesk at 816.736.5317.

**Fine Arts/Activities Questions**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
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<b><i>What decisions have been made about extracurricular activities for next year?</i></b>	We are committed to having opportunities for students to be involved outside of the regular school day. We have been working with our Athletic Directors, Fine Arts Director, and school principals to provide activities in a manner that follows CDC and Health Department guidelines. Many activities are currently taking place with a plan that allows for social distancing.
<b><i>Can my child that chooses the virtual option still physically participate in band?</i></b>	Band will still be an option for students who choose to take courses virtually. We are working with our Fine Arts Director to facilitate the connections between virtual and in-person learners and to make certain that student participants maintain appropriate social distancing and engage in best practices with regards to health and safety.
<b><i>Will Fine Arts classes be available for virtual learners?</i></b>	Yes. K-12 students will have access to Fine Arts courses virtually.
<b><i>Will band and choir be offered?</i></b>	Yes. As a district we are working on various plans to implement safety precautions for our students and teachers.
<b><i>Will we have Fine Arts Performances? (musicals, plays, and concerts)</i></b>	Currently, the Fine Arts Department is working through various plans to allow students and patrons to enjoy and participate in performances, if able. We are committed to providing families with regular updates leading up to the start of the school year.
<b><i>My family is struggling financially, will there be assistance for instruments in band and orchestra?</i></b>	Families will have access to specific instruments in order to participate in band and orchestra based on financial need.

<b><i>LPS Staff Information</i></b>	
<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>If I am diagnosed with COVID, will I have to use PTO days for my absence?</i></b>	Human Resources has created a thorough document that answers the most common questions asked around COVID-19 personnel situations. <a href="#">Please click here</a> to access the document. If you have any additional questions, contact HR at 816-736-5300.

<p><b><i>How can regular education teachers better support students with IEPs?</i></b></p>	<p>Regular education teachers can better support students with IEPs by ensuring they regularly collaborate with special education teachers and related service providers such as speech/language therapists. In addition, being aware of the special education services a student receives and ensuring the implementation of a student's accommodations and modifications as outlined in the IEP is critical.</p>
<p><b><i>What specific guidelines and accommodations will be made for returning to school for students and staff at the Early Childhood Center?</i></b></p>	<p>We are working collaboratively with building administration to ensure that we are addressing needs of students and staff at each level. Staff will spend time during pre-service talking through logistics of re-entry and how to help students with the daily routines that come with starting school.</p>
<p><b><i>How will the district handle the need for substitute teachers, and will they receive special training for this year?</i></b></p>	<p>LPS has been partnering closely with Kelly Educational Staffing throughout the summer. They have added several regional recruiters and have been working to increase their sub pool. Kelly has amped up their marketing as we get closer to school starting in order to try and capture as many of the available talent looking to shore up work needs during the high unemployment rates currently existing. Additionally, they are still seeing signs from their existing sub pool that their employees are returning, they are hungry to work, and we are seeing more interest in teaching as a “gap” option for many who have lost jobs during this time.</p> <p>Part of the success of sub availability will have to come from a commitment from LPS to minimize as much as possible staff demand for subs. We will all have to do our part to assist in minimizing missing work due to non-sick or non-COVID-related reasons. We have asked building principals to not approve requests for extended non-sick leave reasons (e.g. 3 consecutive days or more). Those requesters will have the option to appeal those declined requests directly to HR for re-evaluation.</p>
<p><b><i>Is it possible to have a this-year-only exemption to have elementary staff children residing out of district attend an LPS elementary with their parent? (Many staff reside within NKC. Their plan includes potentially moving to virtual days for three to four days a week. If the student's virtual days conflict with days their parents are present for</i></b></p>	<p>Unfortunately, we do not have a provision to allow non-resident students to attend LPS. This exists for myriad reasons. Mainly, however, this is due to issues related to the unpredictable impact this could have on capacity at each site. LPS is prepared to assist employees in this situation with resources available in our community that provide childcare, if that will aid in closing this gap. Please contact Human Resources at 816-736-5300, and ask to speak with someone regarding childcare concerns related to school/childcare facilities closing during the pandemic. Options may exist to assist you during this time.</p>

<p><i>LPS, that becomes quite challenging.)</i></p>	
<p><b><i>Will teachers be expected to manage both face-to-face and virtual learning at the same time?</i></b></p>	<p>If teachers have students in quarantine for a short period of time, they will be asked to be flexible and stay connected with those students virtually. It is important for students and staff to remain connected during these absences for both academic and social emotional reasons. This may occur simply by connecting students to the class lesson through Zoom or Google Hangout each day. It will be critical for teachers to maintain their online presence as those they are teaching virtually on a daily basis.</p>